

**PARISH NEWS FOR THE  
CATHOLIC PARISH OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, ANDOVER  
NORTH WEST HAMPSHIRE PASTORAL AREA**

St John the Baptist, Andover and St John Fisher, Whitchurch

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**Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday: 9.00am - 3.00pm. NB: CLOSED on Wed.**

**10th and 11th March - The Fourth Sunday of Lent**

**This weekend there is a Second Collection for the Clergy Assistance Fund.**

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Sunday 11th March is Mothering Sunday - doubtless a profitable weekend for card retailers, florists and chocolatiers!

But did you know that the origins of Mothering Sunday lie in going to church on this day?


In the Middle Ages in England, boys and girls who lived away from home (as apprentices, servants, etc.) were allowed on mid-Lent Sunday, as it was called, to go home to visit their 'mother church', where they had been baptised or had been brought up (the church which had given them spiritual birth in baptism was known as the 'mother church'). They brought gifts to be placed on the altar and then visited their own mothers, bringing them flowers and cakes and doing all the housework for them!

The Fourth Sunday of Lent has also had other names: Mid-Lent Sunday, **Laetare Sunday**, Rose Sunday, Refreshment Sunday, Sunday of the Five Loaves.

The original name was 'Laetare', from the first word of the Entrance Antiphon at Mass, 'Laetare Jerusalem': 'Rejoice, O Jerusalem'. As a symbol of this day, Popes used to carry a golden rose in their right hand when returning from Mass - hence Rose Sunday. The Golden Rose was then blessed and given by Popes to Catholic sovereigns, or bestowed upon important shrines or churches as a token of esteem. King Henry VIII received three golden roses, from Pope Julius II, Leo X and Clement VII

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK.**

**James 1:22-25** *"Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it – not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it – they will be blessed in what they do."*

Not only did Nike spend a long time to come up with the 'tick' logo, they also spent an extortionate amount of time to come up with the statement that followed it, which has now become a household name: 'Just do it'. If you were to sum up this passage in James, it would have to be the Nike statement: 'Just do it'. As Christians there is a biblical principle in understanding God's word: 1. Revelation – God speaks. 2. You do it. 3. Illumination – it may or may not be explained. This is the way faith always operates. It is doing what we have been asked to do. We live in a culture where this is often reversed. We want everything explained, then we may do it and we may recognise God speaking. This has never been the way in the Bible. God speaks as with the illustration of Abraham and Rahab in our passage. They were called to act not knowing the outcome or the consequences. **If God has spoken let's do it.** 

R. Crowne

**DIOCESAN PRAYER INTENTIONS: 11TH MARCH - 17TH MARCH**

These are arranged so that in the course of a year we pray for each parish of our Diocese and the Catholic organisations within it. **Sunday:** *Union of Catholic Mothers.* **Monday:** *The "Beginning Experience".* **Tuesday:** *The Holy Father (elected 13.3.2013); Cold Ash Centre, Thatcham.* **Wednesday:** *Community of St Patrick, E. Ilsley.* **Thursday:** *Community of St Patrick, Samarès, Jersey.* **Friday:** *Community of St Joseph, Gosport.* **Saturday:** *Parish of St Joseph, Bracknell.*

**LENTEN HEALING MASS next Saturday 17th March.**

*If you can help by baking some 'goodies' there will be a 'sign up' list up in the porch of things that are needed. Please let the organisers know, by writing on the list, anything you intend to bring 'on the day' - that way we don't end up with too much of one type of food! Thank you!*

**EASTER SERVICES**

To all: Ministers of the Word please sign the sheet in the porch if you are able to read at any of the Easter Services. There is also a sign-up sheet in the Church porch if you are will to take part in the Washing of Feet at the Mass of Our Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday.

### DIVINE MERCY DAY OF REFLECTION

Father Des will lead a Reflection Day focusing on the Divine Mercy of God in preparation for Divine Mercy Sunday at Saint Joseph's Centre, 8 Lyndhurst Road, Ashurst, Southampton, SO40 7DU on **Saturday 7th April** from 10.30am – 4.00pm and will include the celebration of the Mass and a homemade vegetarian soup lunch. The cost of the day is £20.00 per person. If you would like to attend then simply email: [fatherdes@icloud.com](mailto:fatherdes@icloud.com) or leave a message on the centre's answerphone: 02380292337.

### DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

**'Whoever approaches the Fountain of Life on this day will be granted complete forgiveness of sins and punishment.'** (*Diary Saint Maria Faustina no: 300*)

The Hour of Divine Mercy will take place on the first Sunday after Easter Sunday, on **Sunday 8th April** beginning at 2.45pm at Saint Edmund's Catholic Church, the Avenue, Southampton.

Those who have previously participated know that this is an incredibly moving moment of prayer when we entrust ourselves, our families, those we care for and those suffering in our world to the tender Mercy of God.

If you have not been before, then do come along!

### ANDOVER FOODBANK

Thank you, as always, for all your generous donations. You may be interested to know that in January alone we have distributed the following boxes and products:- 66 family, 62 single, 16 bags of toiletries and 7 cleaning packs.

We have a few items for our shopping lists this week: **FOOD ITEMS - ALL URGENT**

**Long Life Fruit Juice; Long Life Milk; Tinned Fish; Tinned Potatoes; Jars of Pasta Sauce; Tins of Rice Pudding; Packets of Rice (500g or 1kg) and Tinned Tomatoes.**

**NON-FOOD ITEMS: Razors; Washing Up Liquid; Cleaning products – kitchen and bathroom and Laundry Products.**

### EASTER EGG DONATIONS

A big thank you to all of you who have already donated Easter Eggs for this year's appeal. We are still taking in donations and would ask that all eggs be delivered to us by **Friday 16th March** to ensure that there is enough time to distribute them to the agencies and for each care worker to pass them on before the Easter holidays begin.

### FOODBANK COFFEE MORNINGS

There will be no coffee morning in March, so the next get together will be on **Friday 13th April** in the Parish Hall at 10.30am. We are planning a plant sale and seed swap event at our May coffee morning which will take place on Friday 4th May, so please bring along any spare seeds or plants you may have.



### ANDOVER FOODBANK QUIZ NIGHT

Come along and exercise your brains on behalf of Andover foodbank!

Our quiz night is going to held on **Friday 27th April** in the Parish Hall - 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start.

**Tickets are £10 per person which includes a meal with pudding and soft drinks.**

Please bring your own alcohol. There will be a raffle too!

Teams can be up to 8 people and we are happy to make up them up on the night.

For catering purposes . . . PLEASE BUY YOUR TICKETS IN ADVANCE!

Phone 01264 362111 or email [office@andoverfoodbank.org.uk](mailto:office@andoverfoodbank.org.uk) for details & tickets.



### CAFOD LENTEN SOUP LUNCHES

**CAFOD Lenten Soup Lunches** are on the **Fridays of Lent** following the 12 noon Mass: **Friday 9th March; Friday 16th March and Friday 23rd March** Come along after Mass and join us for homemade soup (always a choice of two!) and bread - all are welcome! *Teresa and Jenny*

**Prayer Requests @ [www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)** If you would ever like prayer for your own intention, for your parish or for any need, do go to the home page of the diocese website, scroll down to the "prayer request" button, where you can leave an anonymous request which will go to 40 intercessors throughout the diocese.

**MOTHERS PRAYERS** Mothers' Prayers are held each **Thursday from 7.00pm - 7.45pm**. All women, all ages, are invited and welcome to join **Mothers' Prayers** every week. This is a house-based prayer group. Please email: [mothers\\_prayers@btinternet.com](mailto:mothers_prayers@btinternet.com) for more information.

**HEALING PRAYERS.** Join us on **Tuesday evenings between 7.00pm and 7.30pm**. If you would like to choose a theme, scripture reading and music, have a copy of the **El Shaddai Healing Prayer** or more info., contact Frank on 365764  
All are welcome!



YOU MAY HAVE SEEN SAM AROUND AND ABOUT - HE IS AN A1 PLASTERER WHO HAS DONE LOTS OF WORK FOR US IN THE PARISH HOUSE. SAM BOLT-LAWRENCE AND THREE FINE MEN ARE UNDERTAKING A MAMMOTH CHALLENGE!

## ONE BOAT - FOUR GUYS - 3,000 MILES - £250,000 FOR CHARITY.

[www.menofoar.com](http://www.menofoar.com)

*"We believe that adventure inspires. We know that inspiration creates change. It can be a simple act, donating to charity, being active, sharing a social media post, or talking about a condition you fear – adventure can inspire difference. Rowing the Atlantic Ocean creates a unique platform to raise awareness and money for good causes. Our vision is to conduct a campaign that will raise money and awareness for people who face their own challenges every day whilst giving them hope."*

*"We are four ordinary guys who are going to be a part of something extraordinary to raise the profile of two charities that help the recovery in thousands beset with immense challenges of their own. "*

Their aim is to cross the Atlantic unsupported in a 27 foot rowing boat. As a result they hope to raise £125,000 for **Combat Stress** and £125,000 for **Bowel Cancer UK**, helping servicemen and women who find every day a challenge, and promoting early diagnosis of Bowel Cancer, the UK's second most deadly cancer.

### THE CHALLENGE !

The **Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge** is an annual race from La Gomera in the Canary Islands to Antigua.

In mid-December, approximately 20-30 crews will set off to row the **3,000** nautical miles to Nelson's Dockyard in Antigua. The fastest crews will make it in 5 weeks but for the slower boats spending over 90 days at sea is not unheard of.

From the moment they leave La Gomera, all rowers go through the same routine: **eat, row, sleep repeat -**

**2 hours on, 2 hours off** until they see the welcoming sight of the coastline of Antigua.

Boats are completely self supporting, having had to prepare by completing courses in survival at sea and first aid amongst others - in the worst case scenario, help may be several days away. Crews carry their own food, recover their own rubbish and make their own water out of sea water. If the desalinator breaks, they are the only ones who can fix it. **Less people have rowed the Atlantic than have climbed Everest or been to Space.** Perhaps it is the daily 20 foot waves, perhaps it is the thought of spending **7 weeks on 8 square metres of floating fibreglass** with three other men with only the promise of blisters aggravated by salt and the chance of spotting a mythical sea creature to ease the boredom, or perhaps the view from the rowing seat doesn't quite compare to that from the highest mountain in the world.

Rowers race not just against the other crews, but against the deterioration of their own bodies and minds. This is an endurance event like no other - a psychological challenge as much as a physical one.

Regardless of the view, the completion of the challenge is the reward in itself because the Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge is the World's toughest row.



### THE CHARITIES . . .

**BOWEL CANCER UK.** Bowel Cancer UK is a charity that fundraises to campaign for bowel cancer, to support and enable research, and to provide expert advice to bowel cancer patients. "If you lived in South Korea, the chance of dying from bowel cancer would be exactly zero . . . this is not a disease that need exist." Bowel Cancer UK campaigns for awareness of the UK's second biggest cancer killer, and to change clinical best practice for patients who demonstrate the symptoms.

The aim is to eradicate bowel cancer from the UK by 2050. Through its close work with healthcare professionals, the charity provides information to those diagnosed with bowel cancer, and to those who need support through diagnosis and treatment. Bowel Cancer UK moved into research in 2015. Their aim is to increase the number of people surviving five years from diagnosis of bowel cancer from 50% to 75% by 2025. The first step on this project has been to bring together scientists and healthcare professionals from across the world to calculate the research gaps.

**COMBAT STRESS UK.** Combat Stress UK is a charity for serving British forces members, veterans and their families which, raises awareness and funds for those suffering the invisible injuries and conditions often be as hard to cope with as physical ones. Combat Stress have been supporting service members and their families for nearly a century helping them deal with the issues of trauma, anxiety, depression and post-traumatic stress disorder. The charity are able to do this through 14 regional community teams, treatment centres, 24hr Helpline and online support. Over the past year Combat Stress regional community teams held 5,400 appointments with veterans and had to deal with over 10,000 calls to their Helpline, which is sadly a 21% increase on 2016. This has led to over 2,000 referrals for treatment. However, for those who make the first step to discuss their mental health, Combat Stress have been able to provide treatment for those who need it through rehabilitation courses including residential programmes, occupational therapy workshops, individual community support all provided by specialist therapists and clinicians.



twitter: @menofoar Instagram: @menofoar facebook: Atlantic Men of Oar  
You can visit the website [www.menofoar.com](http://www.menofoar.com) to make a donation - quoting 'Sam'

Next weekend there will be a retiring collection to support this amazing challenge.  
There is no pressure to give, but if you can - every little helps! Thank you, Teresa.



**MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS FROM 10TH MARCH - 23RD MARCH**

*Reconciliations each Saturday in Andover from 5.15pm - 5.45pm, and in Whitchurch before Sunday Mass.*

**Sat. 10th Andover Mass 6.00pm Patricia Dwyer RIP - Anniversary**

**Sunday 11th March - Fourth Sunday of Lent**

**Whitchurch Mass 9.00am** *For the People of the Parish.*

**Farleigh School Mass 10.00am** -

**Andover Mass 10.30am** *Brian Goouge RIP*

**Andover Polish Mass 6.00pm. Confessions (Polish) from \*4.30pm**



**Easter Flowers** There will be a retiring collection for Easter Flowers this weekend.

**Mon. 12th Andover Mass 10.00am** *Moya Mott RIP*

**Tue. 13th Andover Mass 10.00am** *Heulwin Jenkins RIP - Anniversary*

**Andover Prayers for Healing 7.00pm - 7.30pm**

**Wed. 14th Andover SOW 10.00am** -

**Thur. 15th No Mass** -

**Fri. 16th Andover Mass 12 noon** *Anastasia Cullen and Dorothy Fox RIP - Anniversary*

*Followed by CAFOD Soup Lunch in the Parish Hall.*

**Andover - Stations of the Cross at 7.15pm**

**Sat. 17th Andover - Lenten Healing Mass 2.30pm**

**Sat. 17th Andover Mass 6.00pm** *Michael Scicluna RIP - Anniversary*

**Sunday 18th March - Fifth Sunday of Lent**

**Whitchurch Mass 9.00am** *For the People of the Parish*

**Farleigh School Mass 10.00am** -

**Andover Mass 10.30am** *In thanksgiving for the safe arrival of baby Martha.*



**Mon. 19th Andover Mass 10.00am** *Frances Galbraith RIP*

**Tue. 20th Andover Mass 10.00am** *Intentions of Gerry McDonnell and family.*

**Andover Prayers for Healing 7.00pm - 7.30pm**

**Wed. 21st Andover SOW 10.00am** -

**Thur. 22nd Whitchurch Mass 10.00am** *For the People of the Parish*

**Fri. 23rd Andover Mass 12 noon** *Evelyn de Souza Rip and the Intentions of the de Souza and Ingram families.*

*Followed by CAFOD Soup Lunch in the Parish Hall.*

**Andover - Stations of the Cross at 7.15pm**

*Please remember the clocks **go forward** one hour at midnight on Saturday 24th .*

*Sunday 25th March is Palm Sunday - Mass at Whitchurch will be at **8.45am**.*

Eva Boshier, Patrick Pacini, Daphne Channing, Audrey Stephenson, Jo Parker, Nan Mundy, Esmé Coveney, Maureen Bennett, Bill Hayes, Doreen Burke, Rita Lane, Valerie Muir, Kath Neuen, Mary and Alan Daws, Jess Dukes, Fr Gerry Mackrell SMM, Betty Twist, Mary and Albert Bullough, Cynthia Manning, Margaret Williams, Patrick Arnold, Patricia Hillier, Pat Moore, Ann Scicluna, Tom Wilkins, Diane Banks, Christopher Walter, Allan Wickens, Di Mussert, Lisa Ramage, Dick Germain, June Saunders, Christine Budden, Carol Casson, Sam Hearn, Derek Moss, Nikki Pink, Elizabeth Spyropoulos and Sheila Muir.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Tony Vaicaitus RIP (Ex Staion Master of Whitchurch.)

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR RECONCILIATION DURING LENT**

**Pastoral Area Penitential Service at St Joseph's Church, Basingstoke on Sunday 18th March at 2.30pm**

**Reconciliation Service at St Peter's, Winchester on Monday 26th March at 7.30pm**